

The Clerk read the title of the bill.
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 815

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Southern Nevada Readiness Center Act".

SEC. 2. NEVADA NATIONAL GUARD LAND CONVEYANCE, CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, Clark County, Nevada, may convey, without consideration, to the Nevada Division of State Lands for use by the Nevada National Guard between 35 and 50 acres of land in Clark County, Nevada, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Southern Nevada Readiness Center Act" and dated October 4, 2005.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 815, introduced by the gentleman from Nevada, Representative JON PORTER, states that notwithstanding any other provision of law, Clark County, Nevada, may convey, without consideration, between 35 and 50 acres of land for the use by the Nevada National Guard as a Readiness Center.

The land in question is part of a larger block of lands conveyed to Clark County under a provision of the Public Law 109-263, the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act of 1998. These lands comprise part of the Airport Environs Overlay District for McCarran Airport, and Public Law 105-263 required that the land be managed in accordance with airport noise compatibility planning agreements.

Further, the 1998 act specified if land was sold or transferred, it had to be done at fair market value with the proceeds distributed pursuant to the act. H.R. 815 would waive this last requirement. Since the proceeds of the land is for an important public purpose, we believe the waiver is appropriate.

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Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend my colleague from Nevada, Representative PORTER, for his work on this legislation. I would note that identical legislation passed the House in the 109th Congress. We support the passage of H.R. 815 and recommend its adoption by the House today.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 815 and yield to the author of the bill, the distinguished gentleman from Nevada (Mr. PORTER).

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, the Southern Nevada Readiness Center Act conveys land to the Army National Guard for a readiness center that will provide Guardsmen with access to facilities, technology, and equipment needed to ensure proper training and readiness.

Because the Southern Nevada National Guard's force continues to grow, this new facility is crucial. It will better train and prepare our soldiers on the front lines. The center is the first new construction for the Army National Guard in the Las Vegas valley in more than 10 years. The facility will house communications, engineering and medical Guard units. It will include a 200-person theater-style auditorium, distance-learning classrooms, medical examination rooms, a weight room, locker rooms, multiple arms vaults, a kitchen, and a maintenance bay. Soldiers will be able to prepare both physically and technically for missions. In total, between 300 and 400 Guardsmen will train at the armory on a drill weekend.

The center will not only help ensure Nevada will be prepared in the event of a crisis or a natural disaster, but also would help ensure that Guardsmen are fully trained and ready for any contingency as directed by the National Command Authority.

I commend the National Guard soldiers who volunteer to serve at home and overseas in order to keep our country safe. It is incumbent upon us to provide the proper facilities that will ensure these soldiers are well trained and prepared.

I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for working in a bipartisan, bicameral manner in support of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me to speak on this important legislation.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 815.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COPPER VALLEY NATIVE ALLOTMENT RESOLUTION ACT OF 2007

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 865) to grant rights-of-way for electric transmission lines over certain Native allotments in the State of Alaska, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 865

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Copper Valley Native Allotment Resolution Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ASSOCIATION.—The term "Association" means the Copper Valley Electric Association.

(2) NATIVE ALLOTMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "Native allotment" means—

(i) each of the following allotments issued under the Act of May 17, 1906 (34 Stat. 197, chapter 2469):

(I) A-031653.

(II) A-043380.

(III) A-046337.

(IV) AA-5896.

(V) AA-6014, Parcel B.

(VI) AA-6034.

(VII) AA-7059.

(VIII) AA-7242, Parcel B.

(IX) AA-7336.

(X) AA-7552.

(XI) AA-7553.

(XII) AA-7554.

(XIII) AA-7600.

(XIV) AA-8032; and

(ii) any allotment for which a patent or Certificate of Allotment has been issued under the Act of May 17, 1906 (34 Stat. 197, chapter 2469) across which the Association maintains an electric transmission line on the date of enactment of this Act.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term "Native allotment" does not include any allotment to which the Secretary has approved the grant of a right of way or issued a patent or Certificate of Allotment that is subject to a right of way held by the Association.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(4) STATE.—The term "State" means the State of Alaska.

SEC. 3. ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION LINE RIGHTS-OF-WAY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is granted to the Association rights-of-way across the Native allotments for an electric transmission line owned by the Association.

(b) WIDTH.—After considering any information provided by the Association, allottee, or any other source that the Secretary determines to be relevant, the Secretary shall determine an accurate legal description of the rights-of-way, the nature of the rights granted, and the widths of the rights-of-way granted by subsection (a).

(c) CERTAIN AGREEMENTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, this Act does not apply to land owned by Ahtna, Inc. and any prior or current right-of-way agreements that may exist between Ahtna, Inc. and the Copper Valley Electric Association or the State.

(d) COMPENSATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(A) appraise the value of the rights-of-way granted under subsection (a);

(B) pay to any owner of a Native allotment or, if the owner is deceased, an heir or assign of the owner, compensation for the grant of a right-of-way over the Native allotment in an amount determined under paragraph (2);

(C) issue recordable instruments that indicate the location of the rights-of-way over the Native allotments;

(D) provide written notice of the compensation procedure for the rights-of-way to—

(i) the owner of record for each Native allotment; or

(ii) if the owner of record is deceased, the heir or assign of the owner of record; and

(E) publish in the Federal Register and any newspaper of general circulation within the service area of the Association and location of the relevant allotment—

(i) notice of the compensation procedure established by this subsection; and

(ii) with respect to a Native allotment described in section 2(2)(A)(ii), the location of the right-of-way, as prepared by the Association and provided to the Secretary, in accordance with any requirements established by the Secretary.

(2) CALCULATION OF PAYMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of calculating the amount of compensation required under paragraph (1)(B), the Secretary shall determine, with respect to a portion of a Native allotment encumbered by a right-of-way—

(i) compensation for each right-of-way based on an appraisal conducted in conformity with the version of the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions that is correct as of the date of the compensation proceeding; and

(ii) interest calculated based on the section 3116 of title 40, United States Code.

(B) DATE OF VALUATION.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the date of valuation of the acquisition by the Association of each right-of-way shall be considered to be the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, judicial review under this subsection shall be limited to a review of the determination of the Secretary under paragraph (2) regarding the compensation for a right-of-way over a Native allotment.

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 865, introduced by the gentleman from Alaska, Representative DON YOUNG, would resolve a long-standing conflict between Alaska Native land titles and utility rights-of-way in Alaska. This legislation is in response to a September 2004 GAO report entitled, "Alaska Native Allotments: Conflicts With Utility Rights-of-Way Have Not Been Resolved Through Existing Remedies."

Although the Copper Valley Electric Association, a rural non-profit electrical cooperative, holds rights-of-way granted in the 1950s and 1960s, and built electric lines prior to the filing of the Alaska Native allotment claims, there

is a conflict with land titles subsequently issued under the Alaska Native Allotment Act. In essence, H.R. 865 resolves that conflict by ratifying the existing rights-of-way across 14 specified Native allotments and providing for fair market value compensation for the landowners. As amended, the bill provides that the compensation, which is estimated by CBO to be no more than \$150,000, is subject to appropriations. We have no objection to H.R. 865.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 865. The majority, Mr. GRIJALVA, has adequately explained this bill. I thank him for his consideration on behalf of the author, DON YOUNG.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 865, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING PAYMENT FOR SERVICES RENDERED BY SUBCONTRACTORS FOR WORK TO BE COMPLETED AT GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1191) to authorize the National Park Service to pay for services rendered by subcontractors under a General Services Administration Indefinite Deliver/Indefinite Quantity Contract issued for work to be completed at the Grand Canyon National Park, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1191

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this Act, the following definitions apply:

(1) IDIQ.—The term "IDIQ" means an Indefinite Deliver/Indefinite Quantity contract.

(2) PARK.—The term "park" means Grand Canyon National Park.

(3) PGI.—The term "PGI" means Pacific General, Inc.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the National Park Service.

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION.

The Secretary is authorized, subject to the appropriation of such funds as may be necessary, to pay the amount owed to the subcontractors of PGI for work performed at the park under an IDIQ with PGI between fiscal years 2002 and 2003, provided that—

(1) the primary contract between PGI and the National Park Service is terminated;

(2) the amount owed to the subcontractors is verified;

(3) all reasonable legal avenues or recourse have been exhausted by the subcontractors to recoup amounts owed directly from PGI; and

(4) the subcontractors provide a written statement that payment of the amount verified in paragraph (2) represents payment in full by the United States for all work performed at the park under the IDIQ with PGI between fiscal years 2002 and 2003.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, during fiscal years 2002 and 2003, Grand Canyon National Park entered into construction contracts worth \$17 million with a general contractor called Pacific General, Incorporated, known as PGI.

In January 2004, numerous subcontractors employed by PGI notified National Park Service that they were not receiving payment. After an investigation, it was discovered that PGI was diverting Federal funds which should have gone to the subcontractors. PGI eventually declared bankruptcy.

It was further discovered that in a clear violation of Federal policies, the park had failed to require PGI to post a surety bond as a condition of the contract. The agency is now prohibited from paying the subcontractors directly because the funds appropriated for those contracts have already been paid to PGI. Overall, the subcontractors are owed about \$1.3 million. H.R. 1191 authorizes the Secretary to use \$1.3 million in available funds from Grand Canyon National Park to pay the subcontractors. Applicants for the funds would have to verify the amount they are owed, demonstrate that they have exhausted all reasonable legal avenues to recoup amounts owed to them by PGI, and provide written statements that the amount they are seeking represents payment in full.

Mr. Speaker, this is an imperfect solution to a difficult problem. However, these small business owners who provided quality services to the Federal Government in good faith should not have to wait any longer to receive payment.

My colleague from Arizona, Representative RENZI, is to be commended for his efforts on behalf of these small business people. Similar legislation